

REMARKS

Claims 6-25 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled. Claims 6-17 have been amended. Claims 18-25 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,410,467). Claims 1-5 have been cancelled. Claims 8-12, 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from Claim 6, which as discussed below, is now believed to be allowable. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 6-7 and 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 depended from Claim 4 which depended from Claim 3 which depended from Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claims 1, 3 and 4 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 7 depended from Claim 4 which depended from Claim 3 which depended from Claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claims 1, 3 and 4 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 13 depended from Claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 14 depended from Claim 1. Claim 14 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 15 depended from Claim 1. Claim 15 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claim 18 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 6.

New Claim 19 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 5, but dependent on Claim 6.

New Claim 20 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 19.

New Claim 21 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 5, but dependent on Claim 7.

New Claim 22 is a dependent claim which is the same as Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 21.

New Claim 23 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 13.

New Claim 24 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 14.

New Claim 25 is a dependent claim which is the same as original Claim 2, but dependent on Claim 15.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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